

Making the most of Open Access resources

A wide range of resources are freely available online through Open Access (OA). The benefits of using OA resources to support study, teaching and research include:

- Equitable access to resources for all students and researchers wherever they're based.
- Reduced dependence on publisher e-books and journal licences which can be prohibitively expensive.
- Openly licensed resources allowing others to easily distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the work, making it simpler to create learning and teaching resources.

Open Access books and journal articles

Peer-reviewed books and journal articles are increasingly available as OA resources. Further information is available in the new Open Content [Library Subject Guide](#). Course Organisers can add any OA resource to their Resource Lists to provide content to support teaching.

The University [supports researchers](#) in sharing their research openly by making research outputs freely available to all researchers and students through the [Edinburgh Research Explorer](#). The underpinning research data is deposited and openly disseminated through [Edinburgh Datashare](#).

Centre for Research Collections (CRC)

The CRC provides online access to a wide range of publicly available heritage collections. 44,000 digitised books, images and resources can be accessed through [Collections.Ed](#), the majority of which have no copyright restrictions and are covered by a Creative Commons CC BY licence.

Journal Hosting Service

The University's [Journal Hosting Service](#) supports the publication of academic and student-led Open Access journals. The service provides online hosting and ongoing support, and is offered free of charge to members of the University. A [range of journals](#) are hosted by the service.

Open Access datasets

The Library is increasing the range of collections available as downloadable datasets. Datasets can be used as the basis for digital scholarship research, enabling researchers to undertake computational analysis of collections through techniques such as text and data mining, image recognition and data visualisation.

Available [collections as data](#) include the University's theses collection which is the largest collection of digitised doctoral theses in the UK. Other open and reusable datasets are widely available, including from the National Library of Scotland's [Data Foundry](#).

Open Educational Resources

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are digital resources used in the context of teaching and learning that are available online under an open licence and free for others to reuse and repurpose. The University has an [OER Policy](#) that encourages staff and students to use, create and publish OERs to enhance the quality of the student experience, expand provision of learning opportunities, and enrich our shared knowledge commons. Visit [Open.Ed](#) for more information. In [Innovating with Open Knowledge](#) the OER team highlights a series of open resources and case studies about finding and using free content, data and research produced by the university sector.

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